



Training
A-3



Moku Ola
B-1



Swamp
C-1

Marines positive about Leadership React Course

Lance Cpl. R. Drew Hendricks

Combat Correspondent

“Where is my ammo! Get my ammo across now,” shouted the team leader. With only eight minutes left, Marines scramble to figure out how they can get themselves, a supply of ammo, and all their materials across a bed of quicksand before the Marines on the other side are overrun.

This was just one of many scenarios Marines from U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific were required to complete at a Leadership React Course Feb. 22.

“The plan is to get Marines out here and have them demonstrate their leadership abilities in order to better prepare them for combat,” said Staff Sgt. Vincent Russo, training staff noncommissioned officer, MarForPac. “Every one of them will be going to the fight, so they need to be prepared to handle situations like these.”

See REACTION, A-5



Lance Cpl. R. Drew Hendricks

Marines from U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific finish a training evolution at the Leadership React Course aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Feb. 22.



Pic. Ethan Hoaldrige

Combat Assault Company, 3rd Marine Regiment, in cooperation with the Base Environmental Department and other government agencies, conducted “Mud Ops” in the wetlands aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Feb. 20 to 23. The operation allowed the Marines to conduct Amphibious Assault Vehicle training and helped destroy pickleweed, which encroaches on the stilt bird’s habitat.

‘Mud Ops’ trains Marines, protects environment

Staff

Hawaii Marine

The roar of amphibious assault vehicles filled the air as Marines from Combat Assault Company, 3rd Marine Regiment rode through the Nuupia Ponds, churning up the weedy wetlands during this year’s “Mud Ops” Feb. 20 to 23. What remained of the of the pond area after the AAVs finished could have been seen as detrimental to the environment.

That was not the case. In

reality, this yearly training evolution actually improved the condition of ponds for its long-time resident – the Hawaiian stilt, or the bird known as the Ae’o.

For Marines assigned to CAC, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay; the Base Environmental Department; and other state and federal wildlife partner agencies, Mud Ops serves a dual purpose in that it satisfies training requirements for the Marines and improves the habitat for the stilt.

“It’s a good thing we’re doing and very helpful for us,” said Sgt. Ian Drury, section leader, CAC. “This gives us the chance to practice track extractions when vehicles get stuck. My new Marines need that experience and knowledge for when they go into combat.”

Mud Ops training evolutions began in the late 1970s with Marines driving AAVs along the pond’s shoreline. At that time, it was noted that the endangered Hawaiian stilt began building

nests in the ruts that were created by the fresh muddy tracks left behind, so the Marines asked federal and state wildlife biologists to move the birds out of harm’s way.

An agreement was made to shift the path of the AAVs north and out of the ponds, yet allow the vehicles to enter the wetland under environmental supervision just before the beginning of nesting season for the birds.

See MUD, A-4

Ceremony honors troops killed in Persian Gulf War

Gerry J. Gilmore

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — About 160 family members of U.S. troops killed during the Persian Gulf War gathered at an Army officers’ club at Fort Myers, Va., Sunday as part of an annual observance to remember fallen loved ones.

The 16th annual remembrance ceremony to honor those killed in the Gulf War is sponsored by the White House Commission on Remembrance and the Embassy of the State of Kuwait.

The ceremony was to have been held at Section 60 in Arlington National Cemetery, where many service members killed in the Gulf War lay at rest. However, inclement winter weather caused the ceremony to be moved indoors to Fort Myers, located next to the cemetery.

The United States and more than 20 allied nations fought the 1990-91 Persian



Gerry J. Gilmore

First Sergeant Bobby Barnett accompanies Lujaine al-Habib, daughter of a Kuwaiti diplomat, as she places a small U.S. Marine Corps flag onto a tablet of remembrance at the Fort Myers Officers Club, Fort Myers, Va., Sunday as part of an annual observance ceremony honoring those who died during the 1990-91 Persian Gulf War.

Gulf War to remove Iraqi military forces that had invaded Kuwait Aug. 2, 1990, by then dictator Saddam Hussein’s order. More than 370 U.S. service members died in the conflict.

Admiral Edmund P. Giambastiani, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was one of several senior U.S. and foreign government

officials who addressed the families at the event.

The admiral said it was an honor “to celebrate not only the service, but, of course, the sacrifice of those who fought and died in defense of freedom in the Gulf War.”

Giambastiani said that remembrance of the fallen is a long-standing American

See HONOR, A-5

Lt. Dan Band



Helene C. Stikkel

Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band perform at the Pentagon May 5, 2006. Actor, director, and producer Gary Sinise is bringing his band, The Lt. Dan Band, to Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, March 3. The concert is scheduled to begin at 3 p.m. at Kaneohe Bay’s Pop-Warner Field, but families are encouraged to show up early. The event will be held outdoors, so towels, blankets and beach chairs will be permitted. The band will host an autograph session after the concert. For more information on USO concerts, visit www.uso.org. For more information about Lt. Dan Band’s free concert performance, contact 254-7597.

News Briefs

Recruiters Assistance Opportunity

Marine Corps Recruiting Station New Jersey is looking for Marines from New Jersey for Recruiter Assistance. Help these recruiters find qualified civilians who want to become Marines. This is a great way to earn points for promotion.

If interested, contact Staff Sgt. C. Scott at 732-866-2928, or by e-mail at scottcd@marines.usmc.mil.

New Jersey Looking for Former Recruiters

Marine Corps Recruiting Station New Jersey is looking for former recruiters who want to return there on recruiting duty.

If interested, contact Sgt. Maj. W. Squires at 732-866-2912, or by e-mail at squireswf@marines.usmc.mil.

Interactive Customer Evaluation System

Hawaii Marine would like to know how we're doing. Please give us your comments and suggestions on our newspaper via the Interactive Customer Evaluation System by logging on to: <http://ice.disa.mil>.

Control Your Pet or Lose Privileges

There has been a recent spike in pet-related complaints concerning dog bites. Base Order 5500.15B, Chap. 4, clearly states: "Persons walking dogs in public must have positive physical control of their dogs." Housing handbooks clearly state: "If your pet is leashed outdoors, the leash must be less than 20 feet long, and the animal may not move outside your yard."

If you have questions about pet regulations, refer to the Family Housing handbook or contact your area housing inspector. Additionally, the Game Warden may be of further assistance and can be reached by calling 257-1821.

Tax Center

The Base Tax Center will operate year-round from the Legal Services Center, Building 215. To set up an appointment to have your taxes prepared, call 257-2110, ext. 236.

The Tax Center will also do taxes on a walk-in basis.

Click It or Ticket

Hawaii Marine urges its readers to buckle up. It's an easy habit to learn that may some day save your life and the life of your passenger(s). Remember, each and every time you get into your vehicle, reach for your seatbelt. Make it one of those good habits that you won't want to break.

Hawaii Marine Accepts Letters

Hawaii Marine invites its readers to e-mail its editor at editor@hawaiimarine.com with their comments and letters.

All submissions will be edited for clarity and length. Comments must be signed with a full name and a telephone number must be provided.

Hawaii Marine also accepts news briefs containing relevant information pertaining to Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

Important Phone Numbers:

On-Base Emergencies	911
Military Police	257-7114
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852
Business Management Hotline	257-3188
Pothole & Streetlight Repair	257-2380
Base Information	449-7110
MCBH Duty Chaplain	257-7700
DEERS	257-2077

Hawaii MARINE

www.mcbh.usmc.mil

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End Strength Increase Information

Call to Service from the Commandant of the Marine Corps

Our Nation is at war - our Corps is at war - fighting a determined enemy bent on terror and domination. Make no mistake, it is a war we must win! Success by the enemy will dramatically change the world as we know it, leaving a harsh environment for our children and grandchildren to endure.

I don't need to tell you that over five years of deployments to the fight have put a strain on our Corps. Acknowledging that, and the necessity to win this struggle, the President has recently authorized the Marine Corps to grow. In a larger Marine Corps, we will need the leadership, savvy, and determination that experienced Marines like you provide. Now, more than ever, your Marine Corps needs you.

Many of you have already sacrificed a great deal - and have already served your country in a courageous and honorable

manner. However, in this hour of national crisis, I encourage every Marine who is considering closing the chapter on his or her Marine Corps service to reconsider. You are elite among the Nation's warriors. America and your Corps need you now, and I ask you to re-enlist - or to extend your commitment - to help us defeat this enemy and see us through the crisis. Think about the experience you have to offer and what it could mean to your fellow Marines still engaged in the fight. I know that any decision to stay in the Corps is both very important and very personal - one that has far reaching effects on both you and your family. In light of this, I have authorized new incentives for your extension/re-enlistment in recognition of your experience and honorable service.

Contact your Commanding Officer, First Sergeant or Career Retention Specialist for more information.

You are part of a new generation of



Marines — carrying the battle-tested colors of our Corps. You have carried them with pride and with honor; I ask you to carry them with me for just a while longer.

Semper Fidelis,

James T. Conway
General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commandant of the Marine Corps

Reconstruction progress in Iraq

Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON

Americans need to hear and see more about reconstruction in Iraq to fully understand the situation there, the general in charge of Army Corps of Engineers efforts in the Persian Gulf region said today.

"We see successes in the U.S. government's construction program here" every day, Army Brig. Gen. Michael J. Walsh, commander of the Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Division, in Baghdad, said during a news conference there.

Walsh helps oversee more than \$22 billion worth of U.S. taxpayer money going to reconstruction.

In 2003, the World Bank estimated that Iraq needed between \$60 and \$80 billion to address infrastructure shortfalls from the Saddam Hussein regime.

The U.S. contribution was to lay the foundation the Iraqi

government can build on, Walsh said.

The basic services being built are facilities Americans take for granted: access to medical facilities, fire stations, neighborhood schools, paved roads, clean water, sewage treatment, irrigation, and so on. On any given day the Gulf Region Division is working on approximately 1,100 projects across the country, Walsh said.

"The vast majority of these projects are on track and good solid construction and meeting the deadlines we have set," he said. "If there is only one percent of those 1,100 projects that are troubled, that's only 11 projects and its those projects that tend to spotlighted, and that's not fair to the American taxpayers or the reconstruction efforts that are under way."

A laundry list of projects includes building 10,045 schools in the country, completing 154 border forts, completing 92 of 97 planned fire stations. The district is funding 34 post

office projects, and officials are renovating 102 railroad stations.

"Americans should hear of the current 989 projects where we are advancing and enhancing the lives of the Iraqi people," Walsh said. "Americans should see the photos of Iraqis being educated in clean, safe learning environments or playing in newly built youth centers. Americans should see in the infants being cared for in modern medical facilities that previously did not exist."

As an example, the general discussed the electrical situation in Iraq. Prior to March 2003, "much of Iraq received four to eight hours of power a day, with Baghdad receiving 16 to 22 hours of power," he said. "Today, electricity is distributed much more equitably around Iraq with much of the country receiving 10 to 12 hours of power."

He said Baghdad remains a problem, receiving six to seven hours of power daily.

"After the war ended in 2003,

demand for power rose 32 percent," he said. "At present, we estimate that demand for power has risen more than 70 percent since 2003. People are able to buy more items: washing machines, televisions, air-conditioners. However, it means we must continually add capacity to the Iraqi system."

He said the U.S. goal was never to produce 24 hours of power, but to update and stabilize the Iraqi national grid. However, security concerns have caused problems with more than 17,000 kilometers of transmission lines that are often insurgent targets, he added.

Walsh said the first new hospital in Iraq since 1986 will open in 2008. The Basra Children's Hospital is a 94-bed facility that will focus on acute care and oncology. The facility will provide accommodations for physicians and nurses, outpatient examination rooms, a pediatric intensive care unit as well as four general pediatric wards.

'EasyRiders' welcome new 'Skipper'

Lt. j.g. Jon Madison

HSL-37

A change of command ceremony was held Feb. 16 as authority of command of Helicopter Anti-submarine Squadron Light 37 was passed to the squadron's Executive Officer, Cmdr. Alvin Holsey, who relieved Cmdr. Neil A. Karnes as "EasyRiders'" commanding officer.

The custom of having the executive officer move up to assume command of an aircraft squadron marked the 25th change of command since the squadron was established in 1975.

The ceremony was held in Hangar 103 aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. In attendance were

friends and family members of the outgoing and incoming commanding officers, along with men and women assigned to HSL-37. The guest speaker, Navy Capt. (Commodore) Matthew J. Pringle, commander, Helicopter Maritime Strike Wing, U.S. Pacific Fleet, praised Karnes for a successful command tour and welcomed Holsey. Pringle spoke about the many accomplishments of the EasyRiders and the importance of their part in fighting the Global War on Terrorism.

Karnes thanked the many people who he said supported him throughout his tour. Karnes served as executive officer from September 2004 until January 2006 when he assumed command of the squadron.



HOLSEY



KARNES

Holsey thanked his family and his many supporters and addressed the challenges ahead for the squadron. Prior to assuming command, Holsey served as executive officer

beginning January 2006.

The squadron's newest executive officer, Cmdr. Brian Teets, reported to K-Bay from the National War College, Newport, R.I.

Weekend weather outlook

Today



Day — Isolated showers. Partly cloudy, with a high near 80. East wind around 9 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Night — Isolated showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 68. East wind around 9 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

High — 80

Low — 68

Saturday



Day — Isolated showers. Partly cloudy, with a high near 79. East wind around 9 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Night — Isolated showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 67. East wind around 9 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

High — 79

Low — 67

Sunday



Day — Isolated showers. Partly cloudy, with a high near 78. Southeast wind around 9 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Night — A 20 percent chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 67. South wind 6 to 9 mph becoming north.

High — 78

Low — 67



Marines of Headquarters and Service Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, listen as Sgt. Julio E. Rapalo, platoon sergeant, gives them a period of instruction on how to conduct a road block Feb. 20.

Predeployment training:

Support element prepares for potential threats



Lance Corporal Stephen Richardson, team leader, enters a room during the room clearing exercise at Schofield Barracks Feb. 20.

Story and Photos by
Lance Cpl. Edward C. deBree
Combat Correspondent

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii — Stacking against walls, preparing to enter and clear rooms, conducting roadblocks, and learning how to handle detainees is not the average work day for Marines assigned to Headquarters and Service Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, who conducted a training exercise at Schofield Barracks Feb. 20.

“These guys are learning the basics of infantry tactics,” said Staff Sgt. Ronnie Torres, company gunnery sergeant. “They are not actual infantry; they are the support elements for the infantry, but they do need to know everything that the infantry does.”

The Marines of “America’s Battalion” arrived at the shoot house

to train the junior Marines in room clearing, detainee handling, roadblocks, and other basic infantry combat tactics.

For some of the Marines, this is new training for them, but for the veterans it’s a chance for them to pass down the knowledge they have already acquired.

“Some of the Marines that are teaching the newer ones have been to Iraq two or three times,” said Torres, a 30-year-old native of Pembroke Pines, Fla. “They’re the ones that are teaching these classes and making sure that the newer guys will be ready.”

“As (the Marines) go along, the training will increase and they will be handed more and more. What we want to ultimately do is train them to become a provisional infantry line platoon.”

Torres said as time goes on, the Marines will build up their training by conducting more live-fire exercises,

four-man stacks in room clearings, and making each scenario more realistic.

The instructors said they are impressed with the progress the Marines have been making.

“These Marines are new, and it’s tough for them,” said Sgt. Thomas D. Wiggins, warehouse noncommissioned officer. “The majority of them are straight out of boot camp, but as the days go on, I see the improvements they make. I look forward to the training continuing because the more days of training, the more intense it’s going to get.”

Torres said there is no doubt in his mind his Marines will be ready because of their eagerness to learn.

“Mentally, I am already back in Iraq,” said Wiggins, a 25-year-old native of Virginia Beach, Va., who has already been deployed twice in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. “To me, I’m already there. I’m just waiting on the plane ride over.”



A fire team prepares to enter a room to clear it of any possible threats.



Private First Class Jose Jimenez, supply clerk, gets down as instructed during a detainee-handling class.

Left: Corporal Dobie August, training noncommissioned officer, demonstrates how to properly handle a detainee during predeployment training at Schofield Barracks.

MUD, from A-1

Conducted annually since 1982, the training is regularly monitored by base and partner wildlife managers who have documented growth in the numbers of Hawaiian stilt counted over that time frame from about 60 to 160 birds — more than double what it was before this 25-year tradition began.

“It’s a beautiful symbiosis between conservation and combat training,” said Dr. Diane Drigot, senior natural resources manager for the base. “Marines are improving the survival chances for these endangered birds while becoming more combat ready at the same time.”

Without this annual plowing action, invasive weeds such as pickleweed and mangrove would overtake the birds’ traditional feeding and nesting areas — a major reason for their dwindling numbers elsewhere.



Sergeant Ian Drury, section leader, Combat Assault Company, 3rd Marine Regiment participated in Mud Ops in the wetlands aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Feb. 20 to 23.

New teacher legislation announced

Lance Cpl. Stephanie Ingersoll

MCB Camp Pendleton

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — A Senate Bill that streamlines the process of acquiring California teaching credentials has taken effect as of Jan. 1.

California Governor Arnold A. Schwarzenegger signed SB 1209 at John Muir High School in Pasadena Sept. 28, 2006, and, although the bill took effect the first of the year, many of the activities it directs do not take place until later this year or 2008.

According to an Office of the Governor press release, Schwarzenegger signed the legislation, SB 1209 along with SB 1655, “to streamline the credentialing process, improve support and incentives for new and experienced teachers, and help low-performing schools hire the best teachers.”

The bill, authored by California Senator Jack Scott, is a response to the shortage of highly qualified teachers in California and the problem California faces with the retirement of approximately 100,000 teachers over the next decade.

The bill will not give credentials to under-qualified teachers, but will streamline the process of getting out-of-state teachers, who move to California into the classroom, said Patrick L. Christman, 56, Marine Corps Installations West’s Director of the Office of Government and External Affairs.

Senate Bill 1209 aims to eliminate obstacles for out-of-state qualified California teachers with several changes that will impact about 30 different provisions of California’s Education Code, which is the set of laws pertaining to education.

Beginning Jan. 1, professional growth was removed as a credential requirement, including both the 150 hours of activities and the experience requirement.

The bill also adds options to meet the basic skills requirement. The California Basic Educational Skills Test remains as one of the options. A basic skills examination from another state is also acceptable effective Jan. 1. Passing scores of other test combinations will be acceptable, as well. These tests include: the Graduate Record Examinations General Test, the Scholastic Aptitude Test Reasoning Test and the American College Testing Plus Writing test.

The California Basic Educational Skills Test: Multiple Subjects examination is required by SB 1209 to be modified to add an assessment of basic writing skills by July 1. Once modified, the CSET: Multiple Subject examination will also meet the basic skills requirement.

This means those military spouses working as educators in other states, but who then receive orders to relocate to installations within California, will not be forced to re-qualify by taking the State-standard basic skills exam.

According to SB 1209, out-of-state prepared teachers will be issued a five-year preliminary multiple subject, single subject or education specialist teaching credential after having:

(1) Earned a teaching credential in a state other than California by completing a baccalaureate degree and a teacher preparation program or alternative program in a subject area that corresponds with an available California subject area.

(2) California requirements for fingerprint and character and identification clearance.

(3) Basic skills requirement (If the applicant is not employed in California, he or she must satisfy the basic skills requirement before the five-year preliminary credential can be issued; if employed, applicants must complete the basic skills requirement during the first year of their preliminary credential).

SB 1209 also requires the following:

Teachers with less than two years of out-of-state teaching experience must complete a beginning teacher induction program approved by the Commission on Teachers Credentialing, or for the education specialist credential, a Level II education specialist credential program, and earn an authorization to teach English learners.

Teachers with two or more years of experience must complete 150 hours of profession-

The Marine Corps’ successful partnership with State of Hawaii and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agencies to train in ways that help these endangered species is celebrated in a national “Saving a Few Good Species” poster series co-hosted by the U.S. Marine Corps and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Each year, Mud Ops continues to benefit the habitat for the stilt and continues to benefit the Marines by providing them with the opportunity to conduct the training they need to prepare for combat operations and humanitarian assistance programs in the Asia-Pacific region.

On the last day of Mud Ops, the training was extended to include a different wetland on base, adjacent to Kaneohe Bay near the Salvage yard — an area recently cleared of mangrove to keep re-growth at bay and to allow Hawaiian stilt and other protected waterfowl to reclaim the habitat there.

al development or acquire a master’s degree or higher in a field related to the credential, or an equivalent number of units from a regionally accredited university (evaluations and documentation of experience required), and earn an authorization to teach English learners. If an out-of-state teacher meets these requirements based on course work completed out-of-state when first applying for a credential in California, the legislation directs the teacher be issued a clear credential instead of a preliminary credential.

Also, teachers who hold a valid out-of-state credential that authorizes instruction of English learners may earn a Cross Cultural Language Academic Development Certificate.

The changes eliminate some of the hoops out-of-state teachers have to jump through to become certified in California, said Christman, who is also the director of the Western Regional Environmental Coordination Office.

“They’ve met the requirements, they just did it in another state,” said Christman. “Service members change locations every couple years. If you’re qualified in one state, why shouldn’t you be qualified in another?”

Rose D. Ingersoll is currently working to get her California teaching credentials.

Ingersoll, wife to Col. Alvah E. Ingersoll III, Commanding Officer of Headquarters and Support Battalion, MCB Camp Pendleton, explained that it took all of September 2006, before her package was finally accepted in October.

“The first time we were in California I didn’t even apply,” said Ingersoll, from Pico Rivera. “I checked into it and I would have had to go back to school essentially.”

Marine and Family Services refer inquiring spouses who are teachers to the Troops to Teachers or Spouses to Teachers programs.

MCBH Energy Conservation

January 2007 vs January 2006

- Overall Electric Use Down 5%
- \$69,400 Saved
- 500,000 kWh Saved
 - Reimb Tenants – Up 122,000 kWh (+2%)
 - MCBH Use/Bill – Down 622,000 kWh (-13%)



Congratulations to MCBH Units/Activities. Reimbursable Tenants, we need you to increase your energy saving efforts.

Team effort is helpful when conserving energy

Staff Sgt. Joseph Cassidy
Base Facility

To avoid energy shortages and keep our air clean, everyone needs to conserve energy. One way to do this is to use power during off-peak hours whenever possible. This means waiting until after six p.m. to run a dishwasher, washer, dryer, or to use other energy-intensive equipments. Another way to conserve energy is to use these appliances before six a.m.

One of the easiest things that everyone who lives and works aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii can do, daily, is to turn off exterior lights dur-

ing the daylight hours. Some exterior lights are regulated by a photocell, which automatically turns on the lights at dusk and automatically turns them off at dawn. Other lights are controlled by a timer, which is set to turn on the lights at a certain time in the evening and turn them off at a set time in the morning. Still other lights are controlled by a switch, which requires a person to flip a switch to turn them on and off.

Unfortunately, sometimes photocells are faulty, causing the lights to remain on 24 hours a day, seven days a week – until someone reports the problem. Also, if the base

experiences a power outage, lights that are on timers have to be reset. If the timers are not reset, then the lights will turn on and off at a different time from when they are scheduled to turn on and off.

If you are a Building Energy Monitor or a Utility Conservation Monitor for your unit or squadron, it is your responsibility to report these and other types of discrepancies by calling the Facilities Help Desk at 257-2380, submit a work request, and follow up the request until the problem is fixed.

Working together as a team – everyone can make a difference by lowering the use of energy aboard base.

Marine and Family Services provides support to Operation Financial Fitness

News Release
Marine and Family Services

The Department of Defense has designated now through March 4 as Military Saves Week to encourage service members and their families to establish savings goals and set money aside for emergencies and other needs. Marine Corps Base Hawaii’s Marine Corps Community Services is supporting this effort by asking military members to join Military Saves as part of Operation Financial Fitness.

“Marine Corps Base Hawaii and MCCS Marine and Family Services are delighted to support Operation Financial Fitness and the Military Saves campaign,” said Ed Josiah, counselor, Personal Financial Management. “We see an incredible need for improved saving habits in today’s world,” he added. This is a model program for changing lives by creating economic opportunity.”

Saving money and alleviating debt require dedication, sacrifice and patience. According to MCCS representatives, Military Saves provides the necessary tools to help accomplish that financial mission. Individuals simply make the commitment to save money on a regular basis to achieve their personal financial goals. Participants receive helpful financial tips and the much-needed encouragement to continue the savings habit. For more information or to sign up for the program log on to www.militarysaves.org

Military Saves is part of the nationwide campaign, America Saves, and is sponsored by Consumer Federation of America, the



Department of Defense, the NASD Investor Education Foundation, and a nationwide network of Defense Credit Unions and Military Banks. Part of the DoD Financial Readiness Campaign, Military Saves encourages leaders to focus attention on encouraging their troops to get out of debt and save money.

For more information about Marine and Family Services and MCB Hawaii, call Ed Josiah at 257-7783.



Lance Cpl. R. Drew Hendricks
Lance Corporal Mark Barratt, special security officer clerk, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, holds down a makeshift bridge as Cpl. Juan Ibarra, computer repairman, crosses a simulated minefield during the Leadership React Course held at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Feb. 22.



Lance Cpl. R. Drew Hendricks
Lance Corporal Elegancegiavoni B. Bratton, a production specialist, MarForPac, comes down a steep makeshift ladder after climbing up and over a simulated quicksand bed.

HONOR, from A-1

military tradition, and Arlington National Cemetery “is a physical remembrance and an expression of remembrance of service and sacrifice and loss that each of us, every single one of us in uniform carry as part of who we are and why we serve.”

Observances of the fallen also help families realize their “yearning and fervent desire to retain the spirit of these loved ones,” the admiral said.

“On behalf of a grateful nation, I thank you for your sacrifice – the greatest one can make,” Giambastiani told gathered family members. “I can assure you that we will continue to support and defend the nation for whom they gave the last full measure of devotion.”

The remembrance ceremony also illustrates the strong bond of friendship between the people of the United States and Kuwait, Gordon Gray, the U.S. State Department’s deputy assistant Secretary of State for the Near East, said.

Since liberation by U.S. and coalition forces at the end of February 1991, Kuwait continues as an appreciated and steadfast ally of the United States, Gordon said.

Kuwait has instituted many democratic and economic reforms over recent years in a tumultuous

region of the world, Gordon noted, including providing Kuwaiti women the right to vote and run for political office.

The U.S.-Kuwaiti partnership “is embodied by robust political, military and economic ties,” Gordon said, noting Kuwait has provided substantial assistance during Operation Iraqi Freedom, to include the provision of troops.

Sheik Salem Abdullah Al Jaber Al-Sabah, Kuwait’s Ambassador to the United

States, extended his government’s gratitude and that of its people to the United States’ military members who died to liberate his country during the Persian Gulf War. Kuwait, he said, has experienced a political and economic rebirth since the late Iraqi dictator’s forces were driven out 16 years ago.

“The victory of Operation Desert Storm will never, ever be forgotten,” the Kuwaiti ambassador said. “Nothing can make up

REACTION, from A-1

Even though the events were simulated, the Marines were forced to think quickly, react quicker, and execute their plan in the quickest way possible.

“It’s creative training,” said Sgt. Francisco Beltran, noncommissioned officer in charge, G-6, MarForPac. “It gets Marines thinking again and helps them get back into a combat mindset.”

Each scenario lasted 20 minutes and presented the Marines with different obstacles, missions, and a limited supply list.

One evolution required the Marines to take sensitive radio equipment, represented by an empty 50-gallon drum, up, over and down a steep bridge.

The area around the obstacle was considered booby-trapped and if touched anywhere in that area, the Marine was considered dead.

One Marine took charge as the fire team leader and decided on a plan of execution. Not only did the Marines have to complete the mission, they had to remember that while they were executing the task, they were in “enemy territory.”

“You’re dead,” yelled Staff Sgt. Michael

D. Travers, a plans and operations administrative chief for MarForPac. “If you fail to provide security for your fellow Marines, someone is going to go down.”

Each team was graded in several categories. The first was whether or not their plan was feasible. The plan was considered feasible if they completed the task. The plan also could not create unnecessary risk to the participants. Overall, teamwork and leadership ability were the deciding factors.

“The tasks made you think rationally under pressure,” said Lance Cpl. Elegancegiavoni Bratton, production specialist, MarForPac. “You had to be able to make adjustments and quick decisions on the fly.”

This training was one of the monthly training exercises that the leaders at MarForPac require their Marines to complete.

“If the Marines ever find themselves in a situation where they need to think things through, they will be better prepared for the fight,” said Col. Cosmas R. Spofford, commanding officer, Headquarters and Service Battalion, MarForPac. “It’s simply good training.”



Marines from MarForPac make a teeter bridge across a simulated bed of quicksand and attempt to cross with a load of ammunition.

Lance Cpl. R. Drew Hendricks

for the pain you have suffered or bring back your loved ones.

“But, the brave sacrifices of your loved ones were not meaningless or made in vain,” he said. “It has meant so much to us Kuwaitis and to other people in the (Middle East) region.”

About 30 families attended the event, said Carmella LaSpada, director of the White House Commission on Remembrance.

Lisa Spain, 42, widow of

Army Staff Sgt. William T. Butts, a helicopter door gunner who died in Iraq 16 years ago, said she was grateful to attend the observance ceremony, wherever it was held.

“It’s appreciated and hasn’t gone unnoticed,” said Spain, who has since remarried and lives in Atlanta. She attended this year’s observance with her three daughters, Shannon, 23, and Lindsey, 17, from her marriage to Butts, and 7-year-old Lexi from her present marriage.

Butts died Feb. 27, 1991, Spain said, during an aerial mission to rescue an Air Force F-16 pilot whose jet had crashed in Iraq. Butts’ UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter was shot down by Iraqi forces, she recalled, killing five of the Black Hawk’s eight-member crew.

Spain’s husband died four hours after a cease-fire had been agreed to by the Iraqi government, she said.

His remains are buried in Arlington National Cemetery.